

In The Claims;

1 to 3 and 5 to 9 and 16 to 20 withdrawn without prejudice.

10. (Amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing said groups into boxes, and comprising;

a gripper body member;

a first and a second pair [plurality] of slide rods supported on said gripper body member;

a first [plurality of pairs] pair of clamp bars slideable along said first pair of said slide rods; [and,]

a second pair of clamp bars slideable along said second pair of said slide rods, relative to said first pair of clamp bars; and,

means for [moving] sliding said first and second said pairs of clamp bars towards one another into a gripping position and away from one another into a releasing position.

11. (Amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 10 and including bearing openings in said clamp bars, and wherein said slide rods extend through respective said bearing openings thereby to permit said sliding of said clamp bars along respective said pairs of said slide rods.

12.(amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for

packing as claimed in claim 11 and wherein [said clamp bars comprise respective pairs of first and second clamp bars and wherein] said first pair of clamp bars [ones of said pairs] are secured to said second pair [first ones] of said slide rods, and wherein second pair [ones] of said clamp bars are secured to said first pair [second ones] of said slide rods.

10 13.(amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 12 and wherein each of said first pair of slide rods are moveable to move said second pair of clamp bars, and wherein each of said second pair of slide rods are moveable to move said first pair of clamp bars [clamp bars has slide openings therethrough for receiving said second slide rods therethrough, and wherein each of said second clamp bars has slide openings therethrough for receiving said first slide rods therethrough].

20 14.(amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 13 and including a head plate, and two side walls depending downwardly therefrom, slide [opening] openings in said side walls for receiving said first and second pairs of slide rods therethrough, and power means supported [beneath] by said head plate [between said walls] and operatively connected to respective first and second pairs of clamp bars.

15.(amended) Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 14 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said [group of said] first and second pairs of clamp bars,

[and being connected to said second group of clamp bars,] and being operable to move said first [group] and said second [group] ~~pairs~~ simultaneously towards or away from one another. [wherein]

AND ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS;

10 Claim 21 Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 11 and wherein said first pair of clamp bars comprises an end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar, wherein said end clamp bar in said first pair is secured to said second pair of said slide rods, and wherein said second pair of said clamp bars comprises an end clamp bar and an intermediate clamp bar wherein said end clamp bar in said second pair is secured to said first pair of said slide rods.

Claim 22 Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including first and second frame plates connected to respective said intermediate clamp bars in respective first and second pairs.

20 Claim 23 Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 22 and including rods extending from said power means, and being connected to said first and second frame plates and being operable to procure relative movement of said first and said second pairs of clamp bars simultaneously towards or away from one another.

Claim 24 Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including third and fourth pairs of said clamp bars.

Claim 25 Carton gripper apparatus for gripping groups of cartons for packing as claimed in claim 21 and including fastening devices extending between said first clamp bars and said second pair of slide rods, and fastening devices extending between said second clamp bars and said first pair of slide rods.